



#BLESSED ARE THE PURE IN HEART

GETTING STARTED

There is an incredible blessing attached to this Beatitude: *You shall see God!* There's just one problem: Our hearts aren't particularly pure. In fact, passage after passage in the Bible tells us that our hearts are *deceitful above all things and desperately sick* (Jeremiah 17:9), *darkened* (Romans 1:21), *hardened* (Romans 2:5), and as Jesus says later in Matthew's gospel, *out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false witness, slander. These are what defile a person* (15:19-20). So the important questions we must wrestle with are these: *Do I have a pure heart?* and if not, *How can I get a pure heart?*

READ THE TEXT: Matthew 5:8

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

UNDERSTAND THE TEXT

1. Read Psalm 24:3-6 together. What do you glean from the passage? Why the emphasis on hands and heart? What is that referring to? Who is it that can enter the sanctuary of the Lord (whether that was the Temple Mount or His Heavenly Throne)?
2. What are some ways in which we can 'see God' as Christians in this life? What will it be like to see *Him as He is in eternity* (1 John 3:2)?

APPLY THE TEXT

1. Intellectual, Emotional, and Dutiful faith are insufficient in and of themselves. Jesus rails against outer purity alone. Jesus is after the heart. Of those three, which insufficient means of following God do you find yourself settling for?



2. The surest way to keep from reverting back to a dualistic heart and privileging outer purity is to practice the rest of the Beatitude: *Seeing God*. If the most vivid ways of seeing God this side of heaven happen in reading the Bible, in nature, and in our circumstances, how has that been your experience?
What are some ways that you can improve your ability to see *God* each day and apply this coming week?
3. How does Jesus heal the crack between inner and outer purity?

SHARE & PRAY

- It's been said that our hearts are idol factories; they're crooked, deceitful, covetous, slanderous, and so on.
And even though as Christians we have been given new life, a new nature, and are no longer enslaved to our sins, we still wrestle with sin. Contemplate the rebellion of your own hearts and share what's competing with, and cheating, single-hearted devotion to Jesus.
- Confess your sins to one another and pray for pure hearts for one another.
- Bring your praises and burdens before each other and to God in prayer.

